

- 21
- (c) raising the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon above the conveyor;
  - (d) holding the winding pallet in place as the transport pallet is lowered so as to separate the winding pallet from the transport pallet;
  - (e) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction and into a first pivot arm;
  - (f) pivoting the winding pallet through substantially ninety degrees to a first position alongside a winding position;
  - (g) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction out of the first pivot arm and into the winding position;
  - (h) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
  - (i) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction into a second position alongside the winding position and into a second pivot arm;
  - (j) pivoting the winding pallet through substantially ninety degrees to a position above the conveyor;
  - (k) laterally moving the winding pallet in the first direction out of the second pivot arm and into a pallet combining position and holding the winding pallet in the pallet combining position;
  - (l) laterally moving the transport pallet along the conveyor into a position below the pallet combining position;
  - (m) raising the transport pallet up into contact with the winding pallet;
  - (n) releasing the winding pallet so as to rest upon the transport pallet; and
  - (o) lowering the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon back onto the conveyor.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein step (l) takes place during one or more of steps (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k).

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the movement of steps (e), (g), (i) and (k) takes place via action of respective linear actuators.

4 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein after step (f) and prior to step (g) a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet is set to a winding reference position.

5 (Original). The method of claim 4 wherein step (m) includes setting a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet to a second reference position different than the winding reference position.

6 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the pallet holding operations of steps (d) and (k) involve the use of respective pairs of gripping arms.

7(Previously Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
- (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to an input side of a winding station;
- (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
- (d) pivoting the winding pallet into a first position alongside a winding position;
- (e) laterally moving the winding pallet into the winding position;
- (f) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
- (g) laterally moving the winding pallet into a second position alongside the winding position;
- (h) pivoting the winding pallet away from the second position and into a third position; and
- (i) placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;

wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) are performed by automated machinery.

8 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein step (c) involves raising the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon above a conveyor and holding the winding pallet in place as the transport pallet is lowered.

9 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein step (c) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

10 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein after step (c) and prior to step (d) the winding pallet is moved laterally into a first pivot arm, and wherein after step (h) and prior to step (i) the winding pallet is moved laterally out of a second pivot arm.

11 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein after step (e) and prior to step (f) a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet is set to a winding reference position.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein step (i) includes setting a position of the stator with respect to the winding pallet to a second reference position different than the winding reference position.

13 (Original). The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of after the winding operation contacting stator coil wires connected to retaining studs on the winding pallet so as to move the wires inward on the winding pallet.

14 (Original). The method of claim 13 wherein the contacting step occurs after step (h) and before step (i).

15 (Canceled).

16 (Canceled).

17 (Canceled).

18 (Canceled).

19 (Canceled).

20 (Canceled).

21 (Canceled).

22 (Canceled).

23 (Canceled).

24 (Canceled).

25 (Canceled).

26 (Canceled).

27 (Canceled).

28 (Canceled).

29 (Canceled).

30 (Canceled).

31 (Canceled).

32 (Canceled).

33 (Canceled).

34 (Canceled).

35 (Canceled).

36 (Canceled).

37 (Canceled).

38 (Canceled).

39 (Canceled).

40 (Canceled).

41 (Canceled).

42 (Canceled).

43 (Canceled).

44 (Canceled).

45(Previously Amended).

An automated stator winding method comprising:

- (a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;
  - (b) conveying the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon to a winding station;
  - (c) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
  - (d) moving the winding pallet into a winding position;
  - (e) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
  - (f) after step (e), placing the winding pallet back onto the transport pallet;
- wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) are performed by automated machinery.

46 (Previously Added).

The method of claim 45 wherein step (c) involves raising the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon above a conveyor and holding the winding pallet in place as the transport pallet is lowered.

47 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein step (c) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

48 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein step (c) takes place at a first location along a conveyor line and step (f) takes place at a second location along the conveyor line, the second location is downstream of the first location.

49 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein a winding machine is alongside a conveyor and step (d) includes pivoting the winding pallet toward the winding machine.

50 (Previously Added). The method of claim 49 wherein step (d) includes moving the winding pallet into a pivot arm.

51 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein step 9 (f) takes place above a conveyor.

52 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein after step (c) and prior to step (e) a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted to move the stator part to a winding reference position.

53 (Previously Added). The method of claim 52 wherein after step (e) a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted to a second reference position different than the winding reference position.

54 (Previously Added). The method of claim 45 wherein the winding operation places a number of stator coil wire ends on retaining studs of the winding pallet and the method further involves contacting the stator coil wire ends so as to move the wires inward on the winding pallet.

55 (Previously Added). The method of claim 54 wherein the contacting step occurs after step (e) and before step (f).

56(Previously Amended). An automated stator winding method comprising:  
(a) providing a transport pallet and a winding pallet, the winding pallet removably positioned upon the transport pallet and a stator part mounted on the winding pallet;

- (b) separating the transport pallet from the winding pallet;
- (c) moving the separated winding pallet into a winding position;
- (d) performing a winding operation at the winding position;
- (e) after step (d), placing the separated winding pallet back onto the

transport pallet;

wherein each of steps (b), (c), (d) and (e) are performed by automated machinery.

57(Previously Amended). The method of claim 56 wherein step (c) involves first moving the separated winding pallet to a position alongside the winding position and then moving the separated winding pallet laterally into the winding position.

58 (Previously Added). The method of 57 wherein the separated winding pallet is pivoted into the position alongside the winding position.

59 (Previously Added). The method of claim 57 wherein a position of the stator part with respect to the winding pallet is adjusted at the position alongside the winding position to move the stator part to a winding reference position.

60 (Previously Added). The method of claim 56 wherein step (b) involves raising the transport pallet with winding pallet thereon above a conveyor and holding the winding pallet in place as the transport pallet is lowered.

61 (Previously Added). The method of claim 56 wherein step (b) involves lifting the winding pallet off the transport pallet while the transport pallet remains on a conveyor.

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62 (Previously Added).

The method of claim 56 wherein step (b) takes place at a first location along a conveyor line and step (e) takes place at a second location along the conveyor line, the second location is downstream of the first location.

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